Claims 1-19 were pending in the above-captioned application. Claims 20-30 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which Applicants consider

to be their invention. Claims 1-19 have been cancelled with traverse and without prejudice.

Upon entry of the above-made amendments, therefore, claims 20-30 will be pending

in the current application. The amended claims are fully supported in the specification as

originally filed and do not add new matter. Applicants respectively request that the

amendments be entered.

The following remarks, in conjunction with the above amendments, are believed to be

fully responsive to the Office Action.

THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

In the application, claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as

being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner has suggested that Applicants amend claim 1 to

be drawn to only the elected invention and amend claim 2 to incorporate only the language of

claim 3 to further define the elected peptide. In response, Applicants submit that new claim

20 is drawn to only the elected invention and new claim 21 incorporates the language of

canceled claim 3 to further define the elected peptide. New claims 22-30 claims the subject

matter of canceled claims 5, 6, 8-14.

For all the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the Examiner's

rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been overcome and/or obviated.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

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Amdt. Dated: February 3, 2005

Reply to Office action of October 6, 2004

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, applicants believe that each ground for rejection or objection made in the instant application has been successfully overcome or obviated, and that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and objections, and allowance of the current application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to resolve any issues that might arise and to promote the efficient examination of the current application.

Respectfully submitted,

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